

9 September 1966

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# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE  
RELATING TO NATIONAL SECURITY



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STATE review(s) completed.

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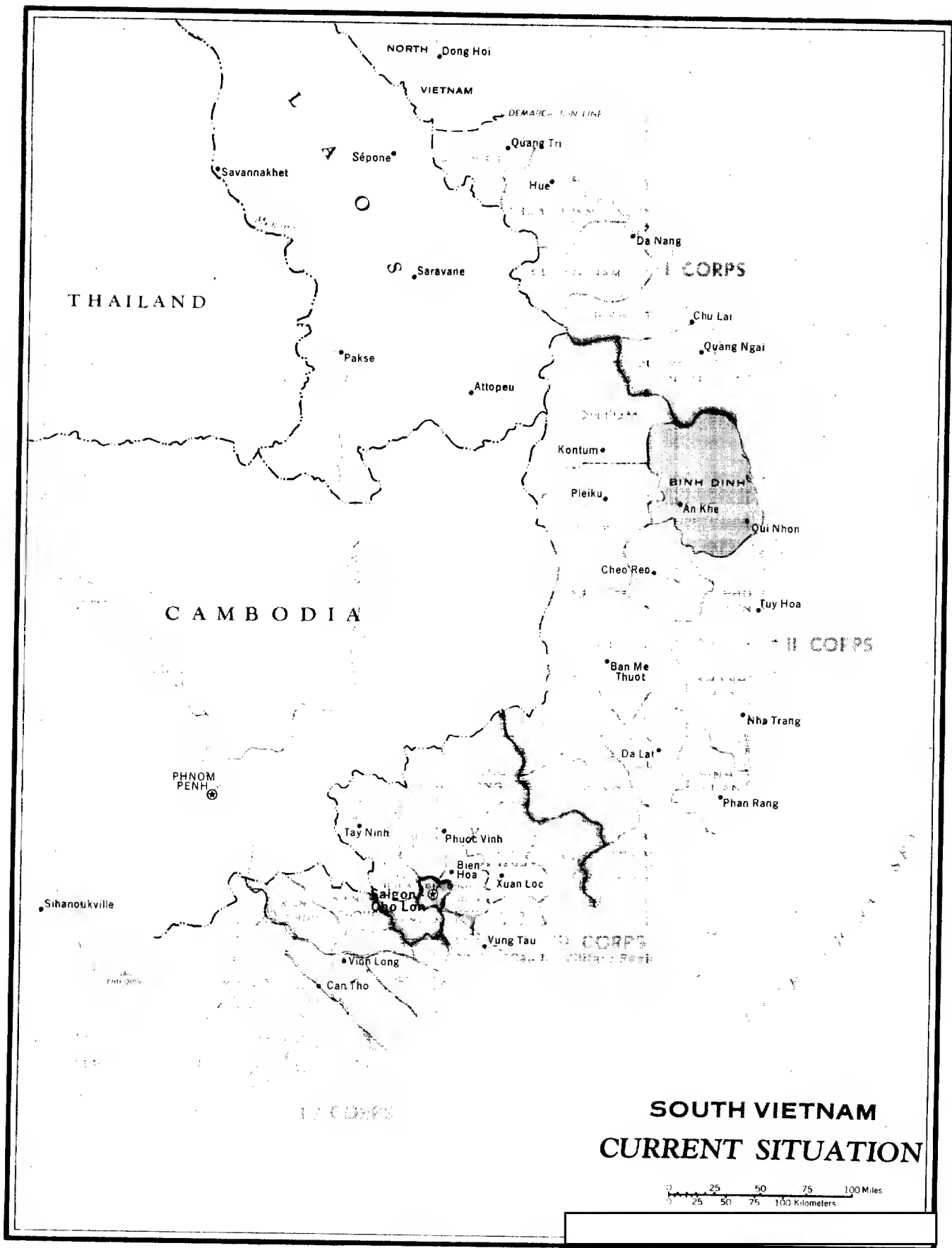
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9 Sep 66 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN Map

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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\*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EDT)

Political Developments in South Vietnam: Communist-initiated terrorist incidents continue to punctuate the pre-election atmosphere.

At least nine Vietnamese deaths in the delta yesterday were attributed to the stepped-up enemy campaign to disrupt Sunday's elections for a constitution-drafting body. One of the dead was a village chief and another was a security employee. Some four explosions occurred in Saigon, although no deaths resulted.

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As planned, some 200 Buddhist clerics in Saigon began a 72-hour hunger strike yesterday in sympathy with their fasting popular leader, the venerable Tri Quang, and in protest against the national elections. The strike has so far aroused only mild public interest.

Military Developments in South Vietnam: On-going allied operations reported only light contact during the past 24 hours. South Vietnamese military

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activity is expected to be at a low ebb in the next few days as regular and paramilitary units are assigned to security duties in anticipation of Viet Cong attempts to terrorize voters and election polling places.

Two Viet Cong attacks, at least one of which was in company strength, occurred on 8 September in Binh Dinh Province in the central coastal area against elements of two South Vietnamese Army regiments. In one of the attacks, a regimental outpost was temporarily overrun, with losses of 16 government troops killed and 15 wounded. A reaction force in the second attack made contact with an estimated two enemy battalions, with fighting continuing at last reports. [REDACTED]  
(See Map)

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USSR: [REDACTED]  
the USSR is seeking to buy another million tons of wheat from France.

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The USSR purchased about one million tons of French wheat earlier this year for delivery this fall. Moscow has just completed negotiations for the shipment through June 1967 of one third of the nine million tons of wheat it agreed to buy under a 3-year pact signed with Canada in June. There are also reports that the USSR has inquired about the availability of Argentine wheat.

High-ranking Soviet officials have indicated that grain imports will continue until the agricultural reform announced in 1965 has become fully effective. Continuing purchases in an above-average crop year reflect this policy. The 1966 harvest, now 90 percent complete, will exceed the average annual harvest of the past five years. [REDACTED]

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NOTES

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Israel-Syria: Tension along the Israeli-Syrian border has again increased following a mining incident on 6 September and an Israeli encounter with infiltrators from Syria on the 8th. Syrian Chief of Staff Suwaydani expressed his regret for the 6 September incident to UN officials and has stated his determination to find the perpetrators. Local commanders along the border may be aiding infiltrators in direct violation of orders from Damascus. Additional incidents, especially if they should involve Israeli fatalities, could touch off another Israeli retaliatory strike against Syria. [REDACTED]

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Somali Republic: Mogadiscio has sent an initial group of 20 ethnic Somalis from northeastern Kenya to the USSR for six months of guerrilla training. Until now, guerrillas have been trained by the Somali Army but, [REDACTED] Mogadiscio wants to improve their efficiency. The USSR is equipping and training the Somali Army, but this is the first instance of any Soviet involvement in Somali guerrilla operations. [REDACTED]

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Ecuador: Labor unrest, financial problems, and the resignation of key officials have brought government stability into question. The chief of the national police told a US official on 2 September that interim President Yerovi is "completely discouraged" and wants to resign. The US Embassy has no other evidence that Yerovi plans to step down, but the government's fiscal situation and morale have deteriorated. Yerovi has threatened to resign a number of times in the past.

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Panama: President Robles is optimistic about the round of canal treaty negotiations which has been in progress since July and hopes to convene a special session of the National Assembly in February or March of next year to take up ratification. Robles hopes to complete ratification before the canal issue becomes enmeshed in the campaigning for the 1968 election. He told a meeting of progovernment deputies on 6 September that two former opponents in the assembly had agreed to vote with the government, boosting the administration's chances to obtain the two-thirds majority necessary to overcome Arnulfo Arias' Panamenista bloc.

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## NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE

The United States Intelligence Board on 8 September 1966 approved the following national intelligence estimate:

NIE 30-1-66, "The Outlook for South  
Arabia"

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